

TF Standard VI Reflection

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### **Social, Ethical, Legal, and Human Issues**

Although this standard will be applied in virtually every decision a technology facilitator or leader makes, some of the most prominent contemporary issues facing school technologists today are digital equity, privacy of electronic student records, student's online safety, and copyright infringement (Williamson & Redish, 2009). Standard VI covers a wide range of issues encountered as technology is implemented in the education setting. Balancing the accessibility of technology with the safety is a very tedious position. A technology leader is constantly confronted with request to allow access and add new products. Even though the two requests listed may not be difficult or time consuming the real responsibility comes with governing the changes. As the director of the School Management Software Department I am questioned as the safety of our product. Our product allows access to data for administrators, teachers, parents and students. In the process of learning Standard VI I realize every area of the standard applies to our software in one aspect or another. Many hours were spent determining the best tools to use to provide security when accessing our product. We took into account that many parents and students may not have access to the product at home. We also reviewed and researched the digital equity issues for students with disabilities. Addressing the student privacy issue in relation to electronic access was also challenging. The committee reviewed, researched and tested several different scenarios until we were satisfied the best process and protection were programmed and implemented.

Internet safety is a major concern of every technology leader. The safety goes beyond adding filters and restrictions. As the technology leader I must also make certain the students are taught how to utilize the internet. Schools can play a much-needed role in Internet safety by providing rules for online behavior and then by monitoring those activities (Pitler, Hubbell,

Kuhn & Malenoski, 2007). Additional instruction provided to the technology facilitators, teachers and administrators will also be beneficial to the safety of the students using the internet in the school environment. Parent instruction will also be necessary to ensure the same practices are used in the home setting during internet access.

It is difficult to predict how educators and students will use new technologies and what the consequences of those uses will be (Williamson & Redish, 2009). Even though the consequences may be hard to predict there are several matters to prepare to cover the social, ethical, legal and human issues. Being prepared and knowledgeable are the two most important. As the technology leader I will be the first one called on to provide expertise. The policy we develop must address the areas covered in Standard VI. As we move toward allowing social networking, addressing ethical and legal issues into educational technology use we must follow the policy. Schools have to be more vigilant than ever. They want to provide access to the vast amounts of reliable, accurate information online, but they must worry about students finding incorrect data, pornography, and predators along the way (Solomon & Schrum, 2007). There is much to gain and lose by allowing new technology products. The major advantage is seeing new technology practices effectively and safely used in the classroom to properly educate our students.

## References

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